



Minutes of the Parochial Church Council by Zoom
Monday 4th October 2021, by Zoom

In the chair: Joan Ridgway (JR)

Secretary: Tim Bayton (TB)

Present: Anita Atherton (AA), Tim Bayton (TB), Susan Coombs (SC), Stuart Macwilliam (SM), Rachel Martindill (RM), Marilyn Pegg (MP), Fr Henry Pryse (Fr H), Joan Ridgway (JR), Nigel Ridgway (NR), Louise Spencer (LS), Fr Steve Turner (Fr S), Nigel Williams (NW)

1. Opening prayer

Fr H opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Apologies for absence: Caroline Adams (CA), Mark Davie (MD), Jill Mather (JM), Andrew Mimmack (AM), Charlotte Payne (CP), Mike Payne (MGP), Jim Weeks (JW)

3. Correspondence (see file)

JR summarised the correspondence previously circulated. Fr H mentioned a card that he had received from the outgoing head of Stoke Hill Infant School, who had particularly acknowledged her appreciation of our prayers during the recent period of change.

4. Approval of minutes of the last PCC meeting (19.07.21), the open PCC meeting (15.08.21) and receipt of the notes from the standing committee. (Proposed SM, seconded NR. approved nem. con).

5. Matters arising

- i. Young People at St James': Minute 1 of the open meeting on 15th August, minute 4iii of the standing committee meeting on 1st September and minute 2ii of the standing committee meeting on 29th September

Fr H reminded the meeting of the previous discussions, as circulated in the Standing Committee notes. JM had previously recorded her deep sadness at the present lack of provision for children from the age of 11 and noted that, despite a request, no parents had offered to help out. Contact with neighbouring parishes had proved positive and it is clear that young people from St James' would be welcome to join them. MP welcomed the notion of collaboration with our neighbours. TB spoke passionately of his anguish over the lack of provision for this very important part of our congregation and over a perceived lack of urgent consideration by the PCC. He exhorted the PCC to make a conscious and clear decision for the future of the work with young people at St James', whether by encouraging them to join groups in nearby parishes or by seriously exploring the option of employing a part-time youth worker; the latter had been suggested previously by CA but no action had been taken in this direction and further investigation of alternative options was still required. At this point, Fr H strongly requested less forceful expression of the passion some PCC members felt for this issue; owing to a general feeling of stress and exhaustion following the pandemic restrictions, there was consensus that gentleness

with one another is needed at this time. From the chair, JR reminded the meeting of a previous suggestion to contact Exeter University Chaplain the Rev Hannah Alderson, who might be able to offer insight with regard to employing a student as a part-time youth worker. NR summarised that further investigation of all options is required before a formal decision can be made but acknowledged that a conscious decision by the PCC is essential for the future of our children from the age of 11.

ii. Emmaus course: Minute 2i of the open meeting on 15th August

Action: JR will speak to Fr Martin about the possibility of running this or a similar course in 2022.

iii. Older People at St James': Minute 2 of the open meeting on 15th August

Fr H reported that Judith Wedgwood and Sue Pinn had begun arranging opportunities for older members of the congregation and friends to socialise and enjoy companionship over a pub meal. JR added that Sue Pinn had also been instrumental in restarting and expanding the craft group, which was now meeting on two Fridays per month with 20 or more people in attendance.

iv. Funeral planning advice: Minute 2iii of the open meeting on 15th August

TB asked whether this suggestion had been or could be taken up? Fr Martin had offered to lead such an event but it was noted that he may be too busy at the moment, as he was moving house. Fr H observed that there was a general feeling of exhaustion especially among the clergy and that taking on another new initiative may be too much at present. Action: Fr Martin will be asked for his thoughts, perhaps looking to a date in spring 2022.

v. Sunday evening services: Minute 3 of the open meeting on 15th August

Regular evening services on the third Sunday of the month had begun on 19th September with a service led by JR on the theme of harvest and creation. A pet service led by Fr S was scheduled for 17th October, an evensong-style service was planned for 21st November, the carol service was envisaged for 19th December, and the service on 16th January would follow the form of Evening Prayer. Fr H reminded the meeting that Evening Prayer with Benediction had now resumed regularly on the first Sunday of the month.

vi. Equipment for streaming services: Minute 4 of the open meeting on 15th August

The opportunity to donate towards the cost of streaming equipment had been advertised to the congregation and generous giving had already resulted in the availability of sufficient funds to make the necessary purchases. A faculty application had been made and it was hoped that this would be approved quickly.

6. Rector's report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously submitted by Fr H (see file). In addition Fr H commented positively on the larger size of the congregation at the Harvest Festival Parish Eucharist on Sunday 3rd October. He also added to the list of forthcoming dates both the deanery synod on Wednesday 20th October and the quiet morning on Saturday 30th October. In response to a query concerning the Christmas bazaar, RM confirmed that a decision would be made shortly. Fr H concluded his report by reading out the list of churchwardens, assistant wardens and sidespeople, as circulated previously.

7. Curate's report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously submitted by Fr S (see file).

8. Treasurer's report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously submitted by NR (see file). NR acknowledged that the PCC is now in a position to repay the discount previously granted on our common fund payment and that a commitment

to do so had already been made at the time when the discount was requested. The discount will therefore be repaid.

9. Churchwardens' report

The PCC received with thanks the report previously submitted by RM (see file). RM noted that collection bags were in use again at Exeter Cathedral, whereas St James' had continued with an open plate at the back of the church. CA had previously assessed the risk of COVID-19 transmission through touch as very low and it was therefore proposed that use of collection bags be resumed at 8.00 am and 10.00 am Sunday services. (Proposed RM, seconded NW, agreed nem. con).

10. Committee reports: Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Fabric, Communications Group.

The PCC received with thanks the reports previously submitted (see file). There were no further comments or questions on these reports.

11. Any other business (to be notified to Jill Mather 48 hours in advance)

- i. NR commented on his request for reconsideration of the strapline, 'sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service,' questioning whether it remained sufficiently contemporary and concise. TB suggested that the purpose of the strapline be considered, in order to determine whether revision might be necessary. Action: PCC to consider suggestions for amendment or justifications for retention of the strapline.
- ii. NR had reported that the steriliser in the hall kitchen is old and works only intermittently, although it was observed that this may be less of an issue now that luncheon club is no longer operating. It was noted that new steriliser and servicing would be expensive but that a modern dishwasher would be unsuitable, as the run cycles of such machines are too long. PR suggested that steriliser has been misused, as crockery is frequently placed in it with no pre-washing, perhaps because users are unaware that the machine is not a dishwasher. NW wondered whether use of the steriliser is a requirement for our hygiene rating. In summary, JR concluded that clearer instructions are needed and that consistently correct use may resolve the intermittent problems. Action: NR will ask Annamaria and Sue to draft clear usage instructions to display in the kitchen.
- iii. Since a graffito had been found on a relatively inaccessible wall near the roof of the church and because of the assumed access route to the roof, a proposal was brought to coat certain downpipes around the church with anti-climb paint. (Proposed NR, seconded RM, passed nem. con). Action: NR to arrange painting of the downpipes in the secluded area by the north porch.
- iv. A query was raised concerning the availability of St James' safeguarding materials and of the minutes from the open meeting on the Church website. Actions: CA will be asked to check that the safeguarding materials are present on the website; JM will provide the adopted minutes of the open meeting to be made available on the website.
- v. JR expressed her gratitude for the card and flowers given to her following her licensing as a Lay Reader.

12. Date of next meeting

29.11.21 at 19.30. Venue/mode TBC.

13. Closing prayer

The meeting closed with the Grace.

Tim Bayton
On behalf of Jill Mather, PCC Secretary

